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4/17/99

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852.

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is in reference to Docket #98N-1038 dealing with the labeling of irradiated foods.

I recently retired from teaching physics for over 20 years at Los Medanos College in Pittsburg, CA, so I understand radiation. I also taught a class on the environment and science which included a study of irradiated food.

The same rays that zap the bugs also sap the food cells and bring about changes in texture, taste, and nutrients. (I am not implying that this is harmful, just that it creates changes in the food.)

As a consumer, I would like to know this information the same as I like to know the saturated fat content, sugar, additives, etc. of the foods I purchase.

I urge you to keep some term like **irradiated** or **treated with radiation** on the label. Pasteurized milk is labeled as pasteurized. Likewise, irradiated food should be labeled as irradiated since that is the truth. What's the big deal about telling it like it is? I urge you to state it on the label.

Sincerely,



Ed Rocks

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